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E. De la Garza

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 May 1975

WASHINGTON, D C -- Rep Kika de la Garza, urging passage of a bill authorizing a local public works improvement and investment program, called for simplified procedures and expeditious action to meet the national unemployment emergency.

The bill provides that the Economic Development Administration must act on local applications for grants of funds in not more than 60 days. If a decision is not reached within that time period, the grant will be regarded as approved. Congressman de la Garza also pointed out that applicants for grants must give "satisfactory assurances" that on-site labor can begin within 90 days from the time the project is approved.

"It is my hope that this timetable can be speeded up," the South Texas Congressman said in a statement in the House of Representatives, "and I believe it can be if the regulations and procedures adopted are written in such a way as to cut red tape down to an absolute minimum."

He added that the simplifying of application forms will speed up their processing and "also should make possible the completion of forms by already hired personnel of local governments, thus avoiding expenditure of funds to engage outsider planners or consultants."

Congressman de la Garza cited the case of a South Texas community which withdrew its application for a grant of funds to build a sewer plant "after wrestling with a variety of red tape over a period of three years" and expending several thousand dollars of local funds for engineering and professional help.